

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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For Immediate Release

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

MURPHYSBORO RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 6, 2006, **KEON D. PENDLETON, a/k/a “Keon Neal,”** age 22, **TONY E. BAKER, JR.,** age 19, **LAJUAN D. JACKSON,** age 19, **TERRY K. ROGERS, a/k/a “T.A.,”** age 27, **LARRY D. WILLIAMS,** age 53, and **SHARICE C. VANN, a/k/a “Sharice Neal,”** and **“Sharice Vann-Neal,”** age 39, all of Murphysboro, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count Third Superseding Indictment, charging them with conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. The Third Superseding Indictment was unsealed on September 15, 2006. The offenses were alleged to have occurred between February 2003 and April 27, 2006, in Jackson County, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty.

The conspiracy offense carries a penalty of 10 years to life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000,000, and a term of 5 years’ supervised release. **PENDLETON, BAKER, JACKSON, ROGERS,** and **VANN** are being held without bond pending an November 20, 2006, jury trial.

The investigation is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operation and is being conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and United States Marshals Service.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.